

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4019

To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2004

Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. ROHR-  
ABACHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Com-  
mittee on International Relations

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## A BILL

To address the participation of Taiwan in the World Health  
Organization.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**

4                       **IN THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

5       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
6       ings:

7               (1) Good health is important to every citizen of  
8       the world and access to the highest standards of  
9       health information and services is necessary to im-  
10      prove the public health.

1           (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in  
2           international health cooperation forums and pro-  
3           grams is beneficial for all parts of the world, espe-  
4           cially today with the great potential for the cross-  
5           border spread of various infectious diseases such as  
6           the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), tuber-  
7           culosis, and malaria.

8           (3) Taiwan's population of 23,500,000 people is  
9           greater than that of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the member states already  
10          in the World Health Organization (WHO).

11          (4) Taiwan's achievements in the field of health  
12          are substantial, including—

13               (A) attaining—

14                   (i) 1 of the highest life expectancy lev-  
15                   els in Asia; and

16                   (ii) maternal and infant mortality  
17                   rates comparable to those of western coun-  
18                   tries;

19               (B) eradicating such infectious diseases as  
20               cholera, smallpox, the plague, and polio; and

21               (C) providing children with hepatitis B  
22               vaccinations.

23          (5) The United States Centers for Disease Con-  
24          trol and Prevention and its counterpart agencies in

1 Taiwan have enjoyed close collaboration on a wide  
2 range of public health issues.

3 (6) In recent years Taiwan has expressed a will-  
4 ingness to assist financially and technically in inter-  
5 national aid and health activities supported by the  
6 WHO.

7 (7) On January 14, 2001, an earthquake, reg-  
8 istering between 7.6 and 7.9 on the Richter scale,  
9 struck El Salvador. In response, the Taiwanese Gov-  
10 ernment sent 2 rescue teams, consisting of 90 indi-  
11 viduals specializing in firefighting, medicine, and  
12 civil engineering. The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign  
13 Affairs also donated \$200,000 in relief aid to the  
14 Salvadoran Government.

15 (8) The World Health Assembly has allowed ob-  
16 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-  
17 zation, including the Palestine Liberation Organiza-  
18 tion in 1974, the Order of Malta, and the Holy See  
19 in the early 1950's.

20 (9) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan Pol-  
21 icy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-  
22 wan's participation in appropriate international or-  
23 ganizations.

24 (10) Public Law 106-137 required the Sec-  
25 retary of State to submit a report to Congress on ef-

1        forts by the executive branch to support Taiwan’s  
2        participation in international organizations, in par-  
3        ticular the WHO.

4            (11) In light of all benefits that Taiwan’s par-  
5        ticipation in the WHO can bring to the state of  
6        health not only in Taiwan, but also regionally and  
7        globally, Taiwan and its 23,500,000 people should  
8        have appropriate and meaningful participation in the  
9        WHO.

10           (12) On May 11, 2001, President Bush stated  
11        in a letter to Senator Murkowski that the United  
12        States “should find opportunities for Taiwan’s voice  
13        to be heard in international organizations in order to  
14        make a contribution, even if membership is not pos-  
15        sible”, further stating that the administration “has  
16        focused on finding concrete ways for Taiwan to ben-  
17        efit and contribute to the WHO”.

18           (13) In his speech made in the World Medical  
19        Association on May 14, 2002, Secretary of Health  
20        and Human Services Tommy Thompson announced  
21        “America’s work for a healthy world cuts across po-  
22        litical lines. That is why my government supports  
23        Taiwan’s efforts to gain observership status at the  
24        World Health Assembly. We know this is a con-  
25        troversial issue, but we do not shrink from taking a

1 public stance on it. The people of Taiwan deserve  
2 the same level of public health as citizens of every  
3 nation on earth, and we support them in their ef-  
4 forts to achieve it”.

5 (14) The Government of the Republic of China  
6 on Taiwan, in response to an appeal from the  
7 United Nations and the United States for resources  
8 to control the spread of HIV/AIDS, donated  
9 \$1,000,000 to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tu-  
10 berculosis, and Malaria in December 2002.

11 (15) In 2003, the outbreak of Severe Acute  
12 Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) caused 73 deaths in  
13 Taiwan.

14 (16) Avian influenza, commonly known as bird  
15 flu, has reemerged in Asia, with strains of the influ-  
16 enza reported by the People’s Republic of China,  
17 Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, South  
18 Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos.

19 (17) The SARS and avian influenza outbreaks  
20 illustrate that disease knows no boundaries and em-  
21 phasize the importance of allowing all people access  
22 to the WHO.

23 (18) As the pace of globalization quickens and  
24 the spread of infectious disease accelerates, it is cru-  
25 cial that all people, including the people of Taiwan,

1       be given the opportunity to participate in inter-  
2       national health organizations such as the WHO.

3               (19) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
4       ices acknowledged during the 2003 World Health  
5       Assembly meeting that “[t]he need for effective pub-  
6       lic health exists among all peoples”.

7       (b) PLAN.—The Secretary of State is authorized to—

8               (1) initiate a United States plan to endorse and  
9       obtain observer status for Taiwan at the annual  
10      week-long summit of the World Health Assembly in  
11      May 2004 in Geneva, Switzerland;

12              (2) instruct the United States delegation to the  
13      World Health Assembly in Geneva to implement that  
14      plan; and

15              (3) introduce a resolution in support of observer  
16      status for Taiwan at the summit of the World  
17      Health Assembly.

18      (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR  
19      TAIWAN AT THE SUMMIT OF THE WORLD HEALTH AS-  
20      SEMBLY.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the  
21      enactment of this Act, and not later than April 1 of each  
22      year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit a re-  
23      port to the Congress, in unclassified form, describing the  
24      United States plan to endorse and obtain observer status  
25      for Taiwan at the annual week-long summit of the World

1 Health Assembly (WHA) held by the World Health Orga-  
2 nization (WHO) in May of each year in Geneva, Switzer-  
3 land. Each report shall include the following:

4           (1) An account of the efforts the Secretary of  
5 State has made, following the last meeting of the  
6 World Health Assembly, to encourage WHO member  
7 states to promote Taiwan's bid to obtain observer  
8 status.

9           (2) The steps the Secretary of State will take  
10 to endorse and obtain observer status at the next  
11 annual meeting of the World Health Assembly in  
12 Geneva, Switzerland.

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